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TRANS	MITTAL LETTER	TO THE UNITED STAT	TES	RCA 89185
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		G UNDER 35 U.S.C. 37		09/868254
NTERNATIONAL PCT/US9	APPLICATION NO. 9/30761	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATA 22December 1999 (2		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED) 28December1998 (28.12.98)
TITLE OF INVENT				
	FOR SELECTING TION SOFTWARE		AYED IN	AN ADVERTISEMENT IN AN
APPLICANT(S) FO	R DO/EO/US		••••	
				Robert Joseph Logan, Jill Suzanne Allen
Applicant herewit	submits to the United St	ites Designated/Elected Office (I	OO/EO/US) th	e following items and other information:
		tems concerning a filing under 3		
		UENT submission of items con		
	•			. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay
exam	ination until the expiration	of the applicable time limit set in	n 35 U.S.C. 37	/1(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
· · · ·	-			19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
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a. C	is transmitted herewith	(required only if not transmitted	l by the Interr	national Bureau).
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6. 🗓 🗆 A tra	nslation of the Internationa	l Application into English (35 U	.S.C. 371(c)(2	l)).
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•		s to the claims under PCT Article	e 19 (35 U.S.C	C. 371(c)(3)).
T 1000	ath or declaration of the in	ventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).		
11. A co	y of the International Prel	iminary Examination Report (PC	CT/IPEA/409).	•
	nslation of the annexes to (5.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).	he International Preliminary Exa	mination Rep	ort under PCT Article 36
Items 13 to 2	below concern docume	nt(s) or information included:		
			.98. with	references attached
14. 🖾 An a	signment document for re	cording. À separate cover sheet	in compliance	with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
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16. 🗆 A SE	COND or SUBSEQUEN	r preliminary amendment.		
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on a video processing apparatus. The advertisement includes control information, which is used by the video processing apparatus to control an operating mode thereof. The control information may include both time and channel data as well as a recording data for programming a timer. Alternately, the control information may only include program data, which is passed to the electronic program guide to determine the time and channel information associated with the program data. —

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to include a reference to the priority applications.

To meet the requirements of the United States, the Abstract (as originally filed in the PCT application) is added.

No fee is believed to have been incurred by virtue of this amendment. However if a fee is incurred on the basis of this amendment, please charge such fee against deposit account 07-0832

Respectfully submitted, Hugh Boyd Morrison Anthony Edward Stuart Robert Joseph Logan Charles Bryan Hunt Megan Louise Brown Jill Suzanne Allen

Frank Y. Liao

Attorney for Applicant Registration No. 40,065

609/734-9497

THOMSON multimedia Licensing Inc. Patent Operation PO Box 5312 Princeton, NJ 08543-5312

June 14, 2001

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Hugh Boyd Morrison, Anthony Edward Stuart,

Robert Joseph Logan, Charles Bryan Hunt, Megan Louise Brown and Jill Suzanne Allen

Filed

Herewith

For

METHOD FOR SELECTING A PROGRAM DISPLAYED

IN AN ADVERTISEMENT IN AN APPLICATION

SOFTWARE PROGRAM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks **Box PCT** Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In the US national phase application of PCT/US99/30761 filed herewith, please enter the following amendments:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On Page 1, line 3, insert the following paragraph:

-- This application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application serial no. 60/114,077 filed December 28, 1998, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference, and which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 365 of International Application PCT/US99/30761, filed December 22, 1999, which was published in accordance with PCT Article 21(2) on July 6, 2000 in English .--

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please add the following Abstract.

--A video processing apparatus may be controlled in response to selecting an advertisement displayed in connection with a productivity or communication application software program being operated

METHOD FOR SELECTING A PROGRAM DISPLAYED IN AN ADVERTISEMENT IN AN APPLICATION SOFTWARE PROGRAM

FIELD OF INVENTION

This invention generally relates to a method for operating a video processing apparatus in response to selecting an advertisement, or the like, which is displayed in connection with a productivity or communication application software program.

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

Electronic Program Guides (EPGs) allow viewers to select any channel at any time during some period into the future, e.g., up to seven days forward. (The data associated with the EPG is typically broadcast in connection with a specified television channel at a certain time during the day.) Once a particular program is selected, for example, by highlighting, the viewer can perform audio/video processing like functions pertaining to that selected program. For instance, the viewer could instantly switch to that program if it is currently being aired or initiate a one-touch videocassette recording (VCR) if the television is properly configured and connected to a recording device.

A communication application software program, such as electronic mail ("e-mail") or electronic instant messaging, running on a computer connected by a network, such as, the Internet, permits a user to send and receive electronic messages to and from another user/computer. Proprietary "on-line" networks usually provide such services to users for a monthly fee. Some on-line services display advertisements within the context of the communication application software program. Similar to advertisements on a typical "webpage", these advertisements may be selected to obtain more information concerning a product or service. Selection of an advertisement usually connects the user to the web-page associated with the manufacturer of the product or the provider of the service.

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There is consequently a need in the art for a convenient way to permit operation of an audio/video processing apparatus in response to the selection of an advertisement, for a particular television program or movie, that is displayed in connection with a productivity or communication application software program.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention resides, in part, in recognition of the described problem and, in part, in providing a solution thereto. The present invention provides a convenient way of permitting a video processing apparatus, such as a television, VCR, DVD, satellite receiver, set-top box, or the like, to be controlled in response to an advertisement displayed in connection with a productivity or communication application software program. The productivity or communication application software program is operated on the video processing apparatus and, usually, connected to a network, such as the Internet. Control information associated with the advertisement is used to operate the video processing apparatus in a typical video operating mode. The present invention links the traditional functions of a video processing apparatus with those of a personal computer.

Generally, the present invention defines a method for operating a video processing apparatus. The method comprises operating a computer software program, such as, a productivity or communication application, on the video processing apparatus. An advertisement associated with a broadcast or transmitted television program is received in connection with the computer software program; the advertisement is displayed. The video processing apparatus is operated in a video-operating mode in response to selecting an advertisement. This invention is applicable with any program transmission means, for example, terrestrial, cable, satellite or the like.

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3 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows an example of a television system in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 shows an example of a digital video processing apparatus in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 3 shows a software block diagram in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 4 shows an electronic message display according to an implementation of the present invention; and

Fig. 5 shows a subsequent electronic message display in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Although the present invention is conveniently described in terms of a television apparatus, it is apparent to one skilled in the art that the present invention is applicable to any video processing apparatus that is capable of running a productivity or communication application software program and can generate or control a display device, for example, a VCR, DVD, satellite receiver, set-top box or the like.

The television receiver shown in Fig. 1 is capable of processing both analog NTSC television signals and Internet information. Descriptions of the remaining well-known functions of the television receiver shown in Figure 1 are not provided except where necessary for understanding the present invention. Tuner 1105 and IF processor 1130 operate in a conventional manner for tuning and demodulating a particular television signal that is included in signal RF_IN. The system shown in FIG. 1 also includes a main microprocessor 1110 for controlling components of the television receiver such as tuner 1105, picture-in-picture processing unit 1140, video signal processor 1155, and Gemstar® data processing module 1160.

Main microprocessor 1110 also controls the operation of a communications interface unit 1113 for providing the capability to upload and

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download information to and from the Internet. Communication interface unit 1113 includes, for example, a modem for connecting to an Internet service provider, e.g., via a telephone line or via a cable television line. The communication capability allows the system shown in Figure 1 to provide electronic message capability and Internet related features such as web browsing in addition to receiving television programming. The electronic message capability is provided using an e-mail program running on microprocessor 1110, which permits connection to the Internet. CPU 1112 controls functions included within microprocessor 1110, for example, auxiliary data processor 1115 and on-screen display (OSD) processor 1117. Auxiliary data processor 1115 extracts auxiliary data such as Gemstar® data from video signal PIPV.

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Gemstar[®] data, which provides program guide data (e.g., EPG) information in a known format, is typically received only on a particular television channel and the television receiver must tune that channel to extract Gemstar[®] data usually during a time period when the television receiver is typically not in use (e.g., 2:00 AM). At that time, CPU 1112 configures decoder 1115 such that auxiliary data is extracted from horizontal line intervals such as line 16 that are used for Gemstar[®] data. For an EPG display, the display data included in the EPG display is produced by OSD processor 1117 and included in the output signal by VSP 1155 in response to fast switch signal FSW.

An exemplary embodiment of the features of the system shown in FIG. 1 that have been described thus far comprises an ST9296 microprocessor produced by SGS-Thomson Microelectronics; an M65616 picture-in-picture processor produced by Mitsubishi; and an LA7612 video signal processor produced by Sanyo.

Figure 2 is an MPEG compatible system for receiving MPEG encoded transport streams representing broadcast programs and is also capable of processing Internet information, including electronic messages. User interface systems are also applicable to other types of digital signal processing devices including non-MPEG compatible systems, involving other types of encoded

datastreams (e.g., digital video disc (DVD) systems). The exemplary system described below is described as processing broadcast programs. The term 'program' is used to represent any form of packetized data such as telephone messages, computer programs, Internet data, audio presentations (e.g., from a remote source or from a local source), visual presentations, audiovisual presentations (e.g., from a remote source or a local source), or other communications. Descriptions of the remaining well-known functions of the television receiver shown in Figure 2 are not provided except where necessary for understanding the present invention.

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A carrier modulated with video data is received by antenna 10 and processed by input processor unit 15. The resultant digital output signal is demodulated by demodulator 20 and decoded by decoder 30. The output from decoder 30 is processed by transport system 25, which provides compressed data outputs for storage, further decoding, or communication to other devices. Video and audio decoders 85 and 80 respectively, decode the compressed data from system 25 to provide outputs for display.

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The data provided to mux 37 from selector 35 is in the form of an MPEG compliant packetized transport datastream as defined in MPEG systems standard section 2.4 and includes program guide information and the data content of one or more program channels. Packet Identifiers (PIDs) identify the individual packets that comprise particular program channels. The transport stream contains Program Specific Information (PSI) for use in identifying the PIDs and assembling individual data packets to recover the content of all the program channels that comprise the packetized datastream. Transport system 25, under the control of the system controller 115, acquires and collates program guide information from the input transport stream, storage device 90 or an Internet service provider via the communication interface unit 116. The individual packets that comprise either particular program channel content or Program Guide information, are identified by their Packet Identifiers (PIDs) contained within header information

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Packets received by decoder 55 from units 45 and 50 that contain program content including audio, video, caption, and other information, are directed by unit 65 from decoder 55 to the designated application device buffers in packet buffer 60. Application control unit 70 sequentially retrieves the audio, video, caption and other data from the designated buffers in buffer 60 and provides the data to audio and video decoders 80 and 85 and high speed data port 75.

In addition, controller 115 is coupled to a communication interface unit 116 that operates in a manner similar to interface unit 1113 of Figure 1. That is, unit 116 provides the capability to upload and download information to and from the Internet. Communication interface unit 116 includes, for example, a modem for connecting to an Internet service provider, e.g., via a telephone line or via a cable television line. The communication capability allows the system shown in Figure 2 to provide electronic message capability and Internet related features such as web browsing in addition to receiving television programming. The electronic message capability is provided using an e-mail program running on microprocessor 115, which permits connection to the Internet.

Typically, however, the computer-related programs and operations, (such as, e-mail) are implemented independently of the television programs and operations. That is, composing, reading and/or sending e-mail is performed independent of any video processing operation, for example, tuning, recording, and/or replaying of audio, video, or television programs. Likewise, the audio, video, or television programming, tuning, recording and/or replaying is performed independent of the computer-related program that may be running on the digital television.

Fig. 3 is a software block diagram or flow chart of an exemplary program which, according to the present invention, may be executed by controller 1110 of Fig. 1, controller 115 of Fig. 2, or any other suitably programmed control arrangement of an electronic host device. The term "electronic host device" as used herein is not limited to television receivers, video recording devices or set-top boxes, but rather encompasses hybrids

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thereof (e.g., PCTVs), satellite television and/or data signal converters, program guide receiver units, and the like, regardless of whether incorporated into a television receiver or personal computer or connected externally thereto. The exemplary program will be described below only with respect to the exemplary hardware implementation of an electronic host device shown in Fig. 1.

According to the exemplary program 300, an advertisement for a program is presented within the display of a communication or productivity application software program 301. In response to a user's selection 302 of a displayed advertisement, a list of choices 310 may be provided. Alternatively, the receiver could operate based on a default mode, for example, immediately selecting the channel with the advertised program, or in response to the user desiring to record the program advertised (perhaps by activating a RECORD button), immediately set up a one-touch recording.

If the choice list is shown, the user selects one of the choices, and the receiver responds correspondingly. For example, if the choice is to tune to a channel 312, the receiver will immediately tune to the subject channel. This may be achieved by either presenting the video in a small window and the user may continue to use the application software program, or the video will take up the entire screen and the user must actively return to the application. The user's work is automatically saved regardless of the selected choice. Alternatively, a dialog box may appear asking the user whether to save the current work or not.

Another choice would be to control the receiver to tune to the subject channel just prior to the start of the program 316 and 318. Alternately, the user could choose to record the program 320. This would result in programming a timer, for example, in the television or the video recording apparatus 322.

In accordance with the present invention, the computer application software program, for example, a productivity or communication application is operated in a video processing apparatus, such as a television, VCR, DVD or the like. A user selects an advertisement (or possibly an icon associated therewith) that is displayed within the context of computer application software program.

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Figure 4 illustrates one such communication application software program, i.e., an electronic mail message program 400. Electronic mail message program 400 is operated on a video processing apparatus, for example, the television receiver of Figure 1 or 2, or any other appropriate video processing apparatus. Other electronic messaging programs, for example, instant messaging, may also be employed with the present invention. Further, productivity application software programs, such as, word processing, spreadsheets or the like, may also be employed with the present invention.

An advertisement 402 is displayed within an area of electronic mail message program display 400. A typical electronic message display 400 includes fields 404 for the SENDER, the RECIPIENT, the SUBJECT and the body of the MESSAGE. In addition, display 400 also include ICONs 406, which can be selected to invoke certain functions, such as, SEND a message, READ a message, view the user's ADDRESS BOOK, etc.

Upon selection of the advertisement 402, the video processor receives the data (i.e., advertisement data) associated with the advertisement. This advertisement data may include program start time, program end time, program duration; the channel via which the program is transmitted, and characteristic information, and combinations thereof. Examples of the characteristic information include program title, program theme, program category, program keywords, a program description, program type (e.g. audio, video, audiovisual, computer, Internet, and the like), and program repeat frequency (e.g., once per week, daily, etc.).

Figure 5 shows an optional and subsequent display of the communication application program of Figure 4 in response to the user's selection of advertisement 402. Figure 5 illustrates an embodiment of a user selection display 500 in which the user is presented with certain options that may be selected. For example, the user may choose to now tune to the channel that the program will be broadcast on 502. Alternately, the user may choose to automatically tune to that channel when the program starts 504 or program a recording timer to establish a recording event 506. Further, the user may select

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to visit an appropriate web site 508 related to the selected advertisement. The display of Figure 5 may not be produced; upon selection of advertisement 402, the video processing apparatus may either directly tune to the appropriate channel or set-up a recording event without further user intervention.

Thus, the video processing apparatus can now be operated in a video-operating mode, for example, automatically selecting a channel, in response to the advertisement data if it is currently being aired. Alternately, if the program is not currently available, the video processing apparatus may be operated to set-up to automatically record the program in the future. This may be achieved by setting-up a "one-touch recording" operating mode or by programming timers with the CHANNEL and TIME information. If the advertisement data only contains "program information", such as the name of the program, then the data can be processed by the electronic program guide to determine the CHANNEL and TIME information.

One touch recording involves setting up a programmed event in the video processing apparatus that receives the electronic program guide, usually, the television. At the appropriate time, the television controls the recording device. The invention also embraces the concept of conflict management. That is, if the selection of an advertisement results in the setting up of a one-touch recording which may conflict with an existing programmed event in the recording device, the system must be able to resolve the conflict. One possible outcome is that the most recent desires of the user, i.e., the selection of the advertisement overrides the existing programmed event. Another option would be to indicate the conflict to the user when the advertisement is selected, thereby allowing the user an opportunity to resolve the conflict.

While the present invention finds much usefulness in the realm of electronic host devices, which are connected to or defined by a television set, the present invention is not limited to such electronic host devices. The present invention may be implemented, for example, with a computer as the electronic host device. This invention may also be employed with advertisements for programs that are displayed in connection with web browsers. It is to be

understood that the embodiments and variations shown and described herein are for illustrations only and that those skilled in the art by implement various modifications without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention.

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11 CLAIMS

1. A method for operating a video processing apparatus comprising the steps of:

operating a computer application software program on said video processing apparatus;

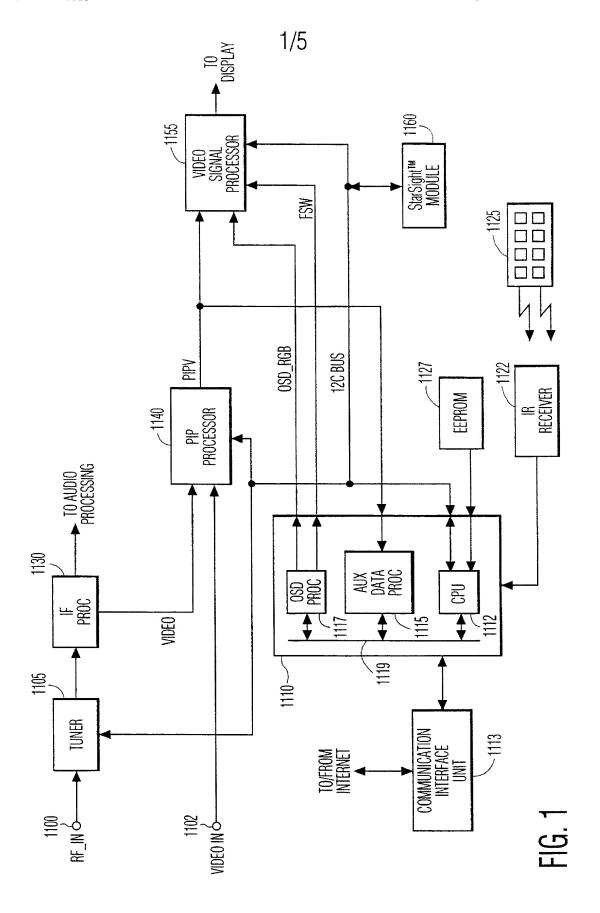
receiving, in connection with said computer application software program, an advertisement associated with a broadcast television program;

causing said advertisement to be displayed;

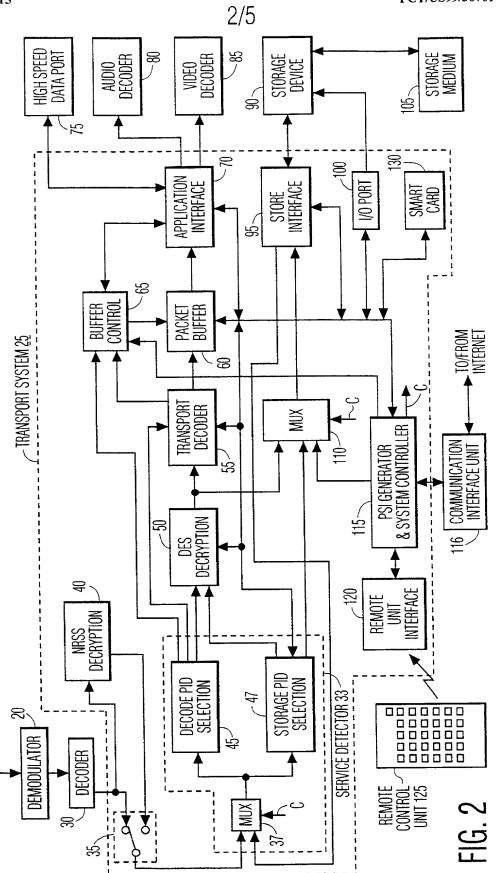
selecting said advertisement; and

operating said video processing apparatus in a video operating mode in response to said advertisement.

- 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said computer application software program is one of a productivity and communication application software program.
- 3. The method of Claim 2 wherein said advertisement comprises control information associated therewith, said control information comprising at least one of (1) time and channel selection data and (2) recording data.
- 4. The method of Claim 3 wherein said control information comprises program data, and wherein time and channel data is determined using an electronic program guide in response to said program data.
- 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of operating comprises controlling a video recording device, interconnected thereto, to record a program associated with said advertisement.



SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)



SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

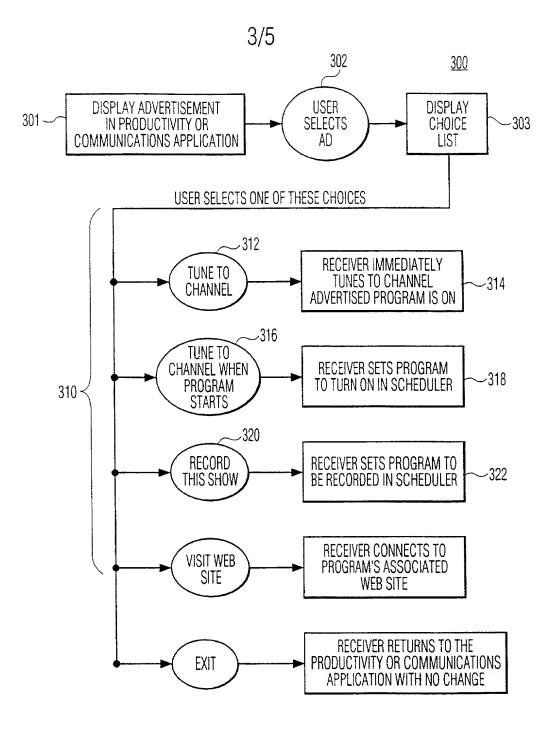
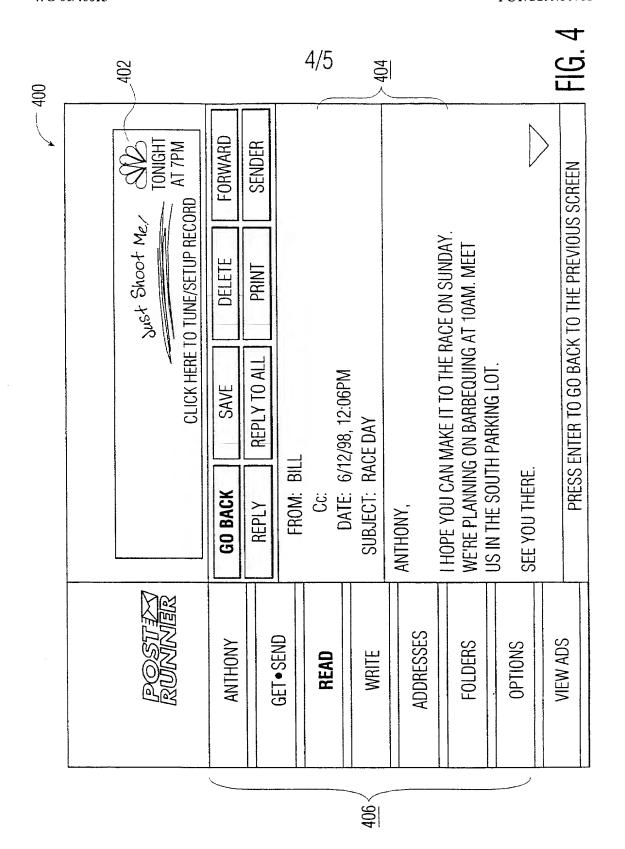
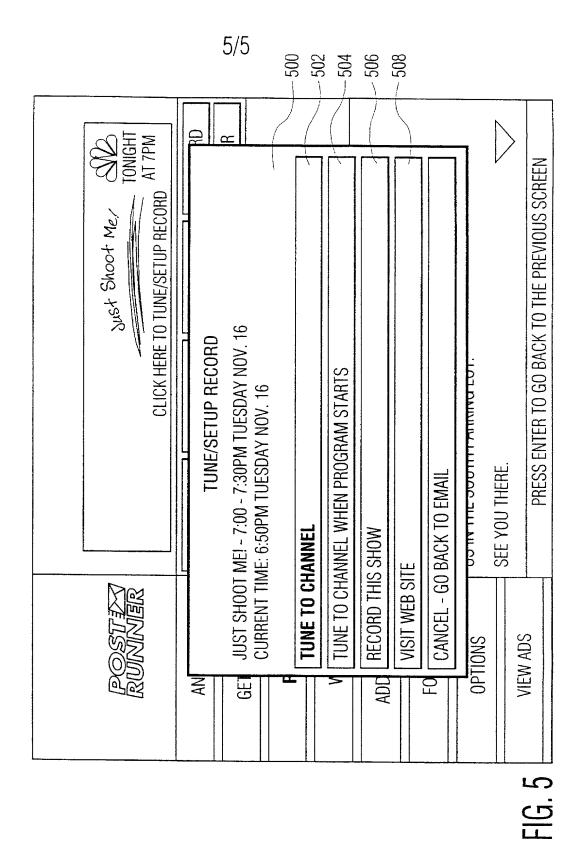


FIG. 3





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Attorney Docket Number RCA 89185

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PTO/SB/01 (10-00) Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0032

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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DECLARATION FO		First Named Inventor	Hugh Boyd Morrison et al.							
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As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: METHOD FOR SELECTING A PROGRAM DISPLAYED IN AN ADVERTISEMENT IN AN APPLICATION SOFTWARE PROGRAM the specification of which (Title of the Invention) is attached hereto OR was filed on December 22, 1999 as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number PCT/US99/30761 and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).										
amended by any amendment acknowledge the duty continuation-in-part applications	I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above: I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filling date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filling date of the continuation-in-part application.									
America, listed below and l	I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.									
Prior Foreign		Foreign Filing Date	Priority	Certified Copy Attached? YES NO						

[Page 1 of 2]

Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

December 28, 1998

Application Number(s)

US 60/114,077

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Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a

supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

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DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

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Ulifect all correspondence to:	r Bar Code L	I .			OR L	Correspondence address below					
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.											
NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INV	ENTOR:			A petit	ion has been f	iled for this unsigned inventor					
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Additional inventors are being named	l on2	suppleme	ntal Additio	nal Inver	ntor(s) sheet(s) PT	TO/SB/02A attached hereto.					

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belief are like so m	I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.										
NAME OF	SOLE OR FIRST INV	ENTOR:			A petit	ion ha	as been fil	ed for this	unsigned inventor		
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ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S) Supplemental Sheet Page 1 of 2

Name of Additio	nal Joint Inventor, if a	r, if any:							
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Mailing Address									
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MEGAN LOUISE	,			BRO	WN				1
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DECLARATION

ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S) Supplemental Sheet Page 2 of 2

Name of Addition	nal Joint Inventor, if ar	ıy:			A petition has been f	iled for	this unsigne	d invent	or			
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lame of Addition	nal Joint Inventor, if an	ıy:			A petition has been fi	iled for	this unsigne	d invento	or			
Given Na	ame (first and middle [if any	<u>(1)</u>			Family Name or Surname							
Inventor's Signature					Date							
Residence: City		s	tate		Country	Citizenship						
Mailing Address												
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Given Na	me (first and middle [if any])			Family Name or Surname							
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Inventor's Signature						Date						
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